United Nations A/56/155

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 July 2001

Original: English

Fifty-sixth session
Item 123 of the preliminary list*

Crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

The present report highlights the progress made in implementing General Assembly resolution 55/64, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity". It describes the status of work with regard to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and an international legal instrument against corruption. It identifies the main concerns and challenges relating to the criminal misuse of information technologies and suggests possible follow-up action. It provides an overview of the technical cooperation activities of the Centre for International Crime Prevention and describes the progress in implementing the global programmes against corruption, trafficking in human beings and transnational organized crime. It also provides information on voluntary contributions made to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund.

Three basic requirements are identified to sustain and build upon the progress of the past years: (i) vigilant action by the intergovernmental bodies to reinforce the focus of activities of the programme on achievable and viable priority areas of engagement; (ii) continued efforts to provide resources to match the existing mandates of the programme by, inter alia, limiting the proliferation of new mandates and increasing regular budget allocations, so as to ensure the availability of a core capacity to develop, raise funds for, administer and manage the delivery of technical assistance to countries in need; and (iii) considerably increase voluntary contributions for the provision of technical cooperation services.

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01-44560 (F) 070801

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I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/64 of 4 December 2000, entitled "Strengthening of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity", in order to provide an overview of the progress made in implementing the resolution.

2. Other related documents before the fifty-sixth session of the Assembly are: (a) the report of the Secretary-General on the African Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders; (b) the report of the Secretary-General on preventing and combating corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds and repatriation of such funds to the countries of origin; and (c) the report of the Intergovernmental Open-ended Group of Experts on the Preparation of Draft Terms of Reference for the Negotiation of the Future Legal Instrument against Corruption.

II. Major developments

3. The most significant development of the past year was the finalization and signature of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three supplementary protocols, namely, the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children; the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air; and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, as well as the commencement of the process of developing an international legal instrument against corruption.

4. The Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP) of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention continued to focus efforts on providing assistance to the international community and individual Member States. Major areas of work in this respect have been the provision of substantive assistance for the development of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols; initiation of delivering technical assistance to foster the ratification of the Convention; and the implementation of the global programmes against transnational organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption. The Centre's work in supporting the elaboration and ratification of international legal instruments and its global programmes currently constitute the two main pillars of its operations. Both areas reflect the reinforcement of the process of repositioning the Centre to respond effectively to the new global challenges in crime and justice. The process of focusing its programme of work and scarce resources on broad well-defined priorities and objectives has been concluded, as embodied in the medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005 and the proposed programme of work for the period 2002-2003.

5. Efforts have also been continued to strengthen the Centre's capacity to deliver the refocused programme of work and improve its operational and administrative efficiency. Bringing on board and building up specialized expertise, as well as improving gender balance and geographical representation among the Centre's staff, the Centre further pursued greater operational synergy with the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) and other concerned actors, while stronger collaboration has been maintained with the network of institutes and several other intergovernmental and non-governmental partners.

6. The United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network had its Fifteenth Joint Programme Coordination Meeting at Turin and Courmayeur, Italy, on 20 and 21 September 2000. In particular, the Meeting reviewed the successful collaboration among the members of the Programme network in relation to the preparation and conduct of a series of parallel expert workshops that took place on the margins of the Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, held in Vienna, from 10 to 17 April 2000.[1] During the tenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, the Programme network took the lead in organizing, with the support of CICP, the "Workshop on Prison Populations: Facts, Trends and Solutions", which was held in Vienna, on 10 May 2001.[2] The Workshop recommended that similar technical and thematic workshops should be organized to take place during the Commission's sessions, as part of its regular programme of work.

7. CICP also participated in the Board sessions of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI), the European Institute for

Crime Prevention and Control (HEUNI) and the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) in 2000 and the International Centre for Criminal Law Reform and Criminal Justice Policy (ICCLR) in 2001. At the ICCLR the Tenth Anniversary Conference, held in Vancouver, from 8 to 10 June 2001, CICP cooperated with the Institute through a keynote presentation on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its protocols.

8. The following are concrete examples of cooperation between CICP and the Institutes, over the past year: UNICRI has been fully involved as a major partner in the implementation of the Global Programmes; the Australian Institute of Criminology cooperated in the implementation of a CICP/UNICRI project on trafficking in human beings in the Philippines through the provision of the services of an expert; and HEUNI released its statistician to CICP to assist with the analysis and elaboration of survey materials and databases.

9. At the tenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (8-17 May 2001), CICP convened a meeting with the Directors of the Institutes of the Programme network to review current modalities of collaboration and discuss future joint ventures, including those related to the promotion and implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice (General Assembly resolution 55/59, annex) and its action plans, once the latter have been approved by the Commission and adopted by the General Assembly.

10. The Centre continued to benefit from the joint provision of services within ODCCP, such as in servicing intergovernmental bodies, fund-raising, external relations and administration, supported by the United Nations Office at Vienna. The triennial review by the Office of Internal Oversight Services of the implementation of the recommendations made by the CPC on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations crime prevention and criminal justice programme (E/AC.51/2001/5) will contribute further in improving programme efficiency.

III. Tenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

11. The tenth session of the Commission was held in Vienna from 8 to 17 May 2001. The prominent theme for the session was progress made in global action against corruption. The Commission recommended the adoption of two draft resolutions by the General Assembly on the "Role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders" and on "Action against transnational organized crime: assistance to States in capacity-building with a view to facilitating the implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the adopted protocols thereto"; as well as three draft resolutions by the Economic and Social Council on "Action to promote effective community-based crime prevention", "Illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna" and "Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating the transfer of funds of illicit origin, derived from acts of corruption, including the laundering of funds, and in returning such funds", respectively. The Commission also considered draft plans of action for the implementation of the Vienna Declaration on Crime and Justice: Meeting the Challenges of the Twenty-First Century. As it did not conclude its review of the draft plans of action, it decided to recommend the holding of an inter-sessional meeting in Vienna, from 3 to 5 September 2001, to continue and complete its work on this matter, in pursuance of General Assembly resolution 55/60. The report on the session (E/2001/30-E/CN.15/13) contains the text of those draft resolutions and details of the deliberations of the Commission.

IV. Towards the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the protocols thereto

12. On 15 November 2000, by resolution 55/25, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, with the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children

and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air. By the same resolution, the Assembly opened these instruments for signature at the High-level Political Signing Conference, held in Palermo, Italy, from 12 to 15 December 2000. On 31 May 2001, by resolution 55/255, the Assembly adopted a third supplementary Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, which was opened for signature on 2 July 2001.

13. The High-level Political Signing Conference in Palermo was attended by representatives of 149 States. There were 16 States represented by Heads of State or Government, while most of the other delegations were headed by Ministers of Foreign Affairs, Justice or the Interior. A total of 123 States and the European Community signed the Convention at the Conference, the highest number of opening signatures for a convention in United Nations history. The Protocol on trafficking in persons was signed by 80 States and the European Community, and the Protocol against smuggling of migrants was signed by 77 States and the European Community (A/CONF.195/2 and Corr.1). Since the Palermo Conference, two additional countries have signed the Convention, five additional countries have signed the Protocol against trafficking in persons and five additional countries have signed the Protocol against the smuggling of migrants. On 5 June 2001, Monaco became the first country to ratify the Convention and the Protocol against trafficking in persons and the Protocol on smuggling of migrants. The Convention and Protocols will remain open for signature at United Nations Headquarters in New York until 12 December 2002, and States may join them by accession after that date.

14. The Convention represents a milestone in international cooperation against transnational organized crime. It carries a powerful political message and signals the resolve of the international community to fight that global menace effectively. Consensus on the texts of the draft Convention and the draft protocols was achieved in an unprecedentedly short period of time. Those legal instruments eliminate differences in cultural viewpoints, establish common themes and standards and provide both an appropriate structure and the required tools for cooperative action among Governments, particularly law enforcement agencies. They also establish the protection of victims and the prevention of transnational organized crime as cornerstones of collective international work. Moreover, they contain provisions aimed at enhancing capacity-building, technical assistance and the sharing of information among States parties.

15. The Centre has already initiated several measures for promoting the entry into force of the new instruments, and further measures are being developed. These include the organization of regional and subregional seminars designed to identify the needs of countries and serve as forums for relevant officials to discuss the implication of the instruments and the requirements for ratification and implementation in each legal system. In this connection, services were provided to the Legal Committee of CARICOM meeting in Guyana, from 22 to 27 January 2001; a regional seminar was organized in South Africa, among the SADC Ministers of Justice and Attorneys-General from 26 to 30 March 2001 (E/CN.15/2001/CRP.3); another in Guatemala on 19 and 20 April 2001 (E/CN.15/2001/CRP.4); and a third one will be held from 8 to 10 August 2001 in Hanoi, Viet Nam, for the ASEAN countries. As national ratification efforts proceed, the Centre will also work with individual countries in response to their requests for assistance in developing adequate legislative, administrative and other changes to give effect to the various provisions of the instruments. Countries that have already sought assistance for carrying out required steps for ratification include Bolivia, Chile, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Mongolia, Namibia, Romania, Ukraine and Yugoslavia.

16. "Pre-ratification assistance" may be defined as assistance in meeting the immediate and specific requirements of States for undertaking the necessary steps leading to the ratification of the Convention and, as the case may be, one or more of its protocols. Its main orientation is to put in place the necessary legislative and other measures for satisfying the basic compliance requirements so that the ratification instruments can be adopted by the competent national legislative bodies, in response to the expressed concern that developing countries require help in fulfilling the obligations emanating from the new instruments.

17. The ability of the Centre to provide "pre-ratification" and implementation assistance will, by necessity, be contingent upon the availability of voluntary contributions for that purpose. Some Governments have already pledged or made voluntary contributions to the special account established for that

purpose, for example, contributions to the United Nations in the amount of 25 per cent of the value of assets confiscated in cases involving organized crime.

V. Action against corruption: towards the elaboration of an international legal instrument

18. The General Assembly, in its resolution 55/61, decided to begin the elaboration of an international legal instrument against corruption. Pursuant to the provisions of that resolution, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its tenth session, considered a report providing an analysis of all relevant international instruments and provided further guidance for future work on the development of a legal instrument against corruption (E/CN.15/2001/3 and Corr.1). The General Assembly also requested the convening of an intergovernmental open-ended expert group to prepare draft terms of reference for the negotiation of the future legal instrument against corruption. The expert group is scheduled to meet in Vienna, from 30 July to 3 August 2001. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 55/188, entitled "Preventing and combating corrupt practices and illegal transfer of funds and repatriation of such funds to the countries of origin", the expert group will also examine the question of illegally transferred funds and their repatriation to the countries of origin. In its deliberations, the Group will benefit from the rich thematic discussion conducted by the Commission at its tenth session and focused on government initiatives to combat corruption, as well as on asset recovery (E/2001/30, chap. II).

VI. Combating the criminal misuse of information technologies

19. The criminal misuse of information technologies is a matter of serious and growing concern to Member States as a domestic and transnational crime problem. As the use of information technologies spreads and as global reliance on them increases, so does the threat of criminality involving computers, computer networks and other telecommunications systems, as well as the magnitude of the harm such criminality is capable of causing. In May 2000, one single computer virus was conservatively estimated to have infected as many as 45 million computers and caused $7-10 billion in damages worldwide.

20. Evidence of the concern about these new forms of crime can be found in the efforts of Member States to respond to it. At the domestic level, many have adopted legislation creating new crimes and investigative powers or for ensuring that those already in operation apply to crime in the new electronic environment. Within the United Nations, computer-related crime was the subject of discussions at the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders,[3] which adopted a resolution on this subject, drawing on which a Manual on the prevention and control of computer-related crime was published in 1994;[4] as well as at the Tenth Congress, during which a workshop was conducted on this theme.[5] It should also be recalled that on 4 December 2000, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/63, in which it, inter alia, noted the value of efforts to combat the criminal misuse of information technologies.

21. Pursuant to Economic and Social Council resolution 1999/23, a report on crimes related to computer networks was submitted to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its tenth session (E/CN.15/2001/4). Having reviewed the nature and extent of the problem of high technology and computer-related crime and the activities of the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations to deal with it, the report concluded that there was a need to examine the problem both as an expanding new form of transnational crime and in more general context areas, such as social and economic development and the protection of human rights. It also noted that it was essential for all relevant stakeholders to be involved in discussions, including developing countries, the private sector and relevant non-governmental organizations. It proposed a more detailed study of the problem to be presented to the Commission at its eleventh session. It is hoped that the realization of such a study, under the leadership of the Commission, will result in the elaboration of comprehensive policy recommendations for more effectively combating the criminal misuse of information technologies, both nationally and internationally.

VII. Illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives

22. In its resolution 54/127 of 17 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to convene an expert group to prepare a study on the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in explosives and their use for criminal purposes. A voluntary contribution for the study was made by the Government of the United States of America. Regional groups were requested to nominate experts to be invited to the meeting and 17 experts were nominated.

23. At its first meeting, held in Vienna from 12 to 16 March 2001, the expert group conducted a preliminary examination of the information assembled by its members and the Secretariat. Extrabudgetary resources available to the Secretariat were not sufficient to cover the travel costs of the experts and the cost of interpretation; as a result, nine of the experts nominated were unable to attend the meeting. The expert group expressed its concern that lack of resources could adversely affect its future work and its ability to fulfil its mandate. To collect relevant information from countries not represented in the expert group, the members of the expert group developed a survey and requested the Secretariat to distribute it as soon as possible. The expert group agreed that each of its members should, in addition to analysing responses to the questionnaire, carry out research on such topics as the marking and tracing of explosives, relevant aspects of transnationality, domestic legislation and existing international and regional instruments and a survey of needs and resources in the areas of legal and technical assistance. It also agreed that it should hold another meeting to finalize the study once the responses to the questionnaire became available. The Secretariat is engaged in consultations with interested countries for the purpose of organizing a second meeting of the expert group as soon as possible. The Secretary-General is to report, as early as possible, to the Commission on the results of the study, in accordance with resolution 54/127.

VIII. Technical cooperation

A. Overview

24. As of 30 June 2001, the total value of the Centre's ongoing technical cooperation projects amounted to $4,199,447. The projects are listed in table 1 below. Further details are contained in the following sections. The Centre continued to focus its technical cooperation activities on combating organized crime, trafficking in human beings and corruption. Progress has been made in initiating and advancing the implementation of concrete projects at the regional and country levels, especially within the framework of the Centre's three global programmes addressing the above subjects. At the same time, ad hoc projects in other criminal justice areas, such as juvenile justice and crime prevention, were also supported and carried out.

25. Synergies between the Centre and UNDCP, the two pillars of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention, continued to be sought, while strengthening the Centre's identity. A number of joint missions were undertaken with UNDCP. These included advisory, fact-finding and project formulation missions to Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Egypt and West Africa, as well as the participation by CICP experts in training events organized by the Legal Affairs Programme of UNDCP and the development of joint projects in the areas covered by the CICP Global Programme against Corruption and the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention Global Programme against Money Laundering. While decisions on project execution and implementation modalities continued to be made on a project-by-project basis, CICP engaged the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) for the provision of administrative and other support services for the implementation of a number of field projects.

26. The capacity of the Centre to backstop technical cooperation activities was enhanced through increased representation at the country and subregional levels. This was achieved through the conversion of selected UNDCP offices to ODCCP offices, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1998/24. Decisions on the establishment of CICP representations at the field level are based on the need to support the development and implementation of specific technical cooperation activities. In 2000, ODCCP regional

Table 1
Technical cooperation projects supported by the Centre for International Crime Prevention in 2001

Country	*Project*	*Total budget (United States dollars)*	*Role of the Centre*
Hungary	Assessment of corruption in Hungary	175 263	Funding and executing agency
Lebanon	Support for the national anti-corruption strategy	305 551	Funding and executing agency
	Strengthening the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice	754 049	Funding and executing agency
Philippines	Coalitions against trafficking in human beings in the Philippines	219 231	Funding and executing agency
South Africa	Mechanisms to counteract domestic violence	660 000	Funding and associate agency
	Measures to counteract organized crime	414 000	Funding and cooperating agency
	Donor coordination in the criminal justice field	40 000	Funding and executing agency
	Support to the national anti-corruption strategy	359 340	Funding and executing agency
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	Preventing and controlling economic and financial crime	330 000	Funding and executing agency
Czech Republic and Poland	Criminal justice responses to trafficking in human beings	519 348	Funding and executing agency
Benin	Implementation of a national anti-corruption strategy	196 100	Funding and executing agency
West Africa (Benin, Nigeria, Togo)	Trafficking in human beings in Benin, Nigeria and Togo	226 565	Funding and executing agency
Global	United Nations Survey on Transnational Organized Crime and related Drug Trafficking		Executing agency. Funded by UNDCP ($152,550)
Total		**4 199 447**	

offices were established in Thailand, covering South-East Asia; in Egypt, covering North Africa and the Middle East; and in Brazil and Bolivia. The Centre is currently represented at six regional and one national field offices. In the second half of 2001, steps will be taken to enable the conversion to ODCCP offices of the existing UNDCP offices in Nigeria, Senegal and Colombia.

B. Global Programme against Corruption

27. Progress has been made in refining, implementing and raising awareness about the Global Programme against Corruption, launched in March 1999 in cooperation with the United Nations Interregional Crime and Research Institute (UNICRI). A number of countries have indicated their interest in participating and receiving technical assistance from the global programme. The number of participating pilot countries has increased from three to six, and

discussions are ongoing on arrangements for the possible participation of additional countries. Increased substantive expertise, dissemination of information and visibility for the programme have been achieved. A web page of the programme has been launched and is being continuously updated, within the Centre's web site (www.odccp.org/corruption.html). A draft United Nations *Anti-Corruption Tool Kit* and a draft United Nations *Manual on Anti-Corruption Policy* have been elaborated and are being refined on the basis of feedback being received. The *Tool Kit* and the *Manual* provide technical guidance to policy makers on combating corrupt practices within the public sector.

28. The global programme consists of an integrated package of assessment, technical cooperation, evaluation and contributions for the formulation of international, national and municipal strategies and instruments to combat corruption. It entails a systematic process of "action learning", which will identify best practices and lessons learned through pilot country projects, programme execution and monitoring through periodic country assessments and the global corruption trends study. Attention is also given to institution building, prevention, awareness raising and education, enforcement, anti-corruption legislation, judicial integrity and repatriation of illegally acquired assets as well as impact monitoring and evaluation.

29. A global corruption trends annual report is being initiated to provide a systematic international policy-oriented tool designed to identify and address a country's institutional factors enhancing the frequency and scope of corrupt practices. The report would also identify the links between public sector corruption and organized crime, asset recovery, and human trafficking.

30. It is envisaged that during its current initial stage, the programme will undertake projects in a few selected pilot countries from all regions of the world. Six countries, which have requested the Centre's assistance to design and implement an integrated anti-corruption programme, have been selected for pilot projects: Benin, Hungary, Lebanon, Nigeria, Romania and South Africa. These countries would also be part of a survey to be included in the global trends annual report. Projects in these countries are currently at different stages of formulation and implementation. Further pilot countries are being considered, in consultation with the pertinent government authorities, while new project ideas are being developed on the basis of feasibility assessments. These currently include Colombia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and Uganda, as well as a possible follow-up project in Romania.

31. In Benin, a project entitled "Elaboration of an anti-corruption strategy in Benin" has been developed, signed and funding secured from the Government of France. In Hungary, implementation of the project "Assessment of corruption in Hungary" is currently ongoing. Funded by the Government of the United States of America, the project is assisting the Government of Hungary in its efforts to prevent, detect and fight corruption and promote transparency, accountability and the rule of law. In Lebanon, a project entitled "Support for the national anti-corruption strategy" was launched in March 1999, funded by the Government of the United States. The project assists the authorities in establishing an independent anti-corruption agency, introducing codes of conduct for public officials and strengthening the integrity of the judiciary. In Nigeria, preparatory missions were undertaken and a draft project document on strengthening the integrity of the judiciary has been developed, with the active involvement of the Chief Justice and the Supreme Court. The project entitled "Institution building and strengthening of corruption control capacity in Romania", funded by the Governments of Greece and the United States and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), concluded its activities and was externally evaluated in December 2000. The evaluation concluded that the project was perceived to have added value to the Government's efforts to fight corruption. The Government has requested the initiation of a follow-up project focusing on integrity in the judiciary and public-awareness raising. In South Africa, the project entitled "Support to the national anti-corruption strategy" was signed in March 2001. Project implementation is commencing with a comprehensive assessment of types, levels, causes, and cost of and remedies for corruption in South Africa.

32. In Colombia, a project is being developed in close consultation with government officials and civil society representatives. It aims at introducing best practices in the fight against corruption at the local government level, covering service delivery within the executive, legislative and judicial domains. CICP has developed a project idea for enhancing judicial integrity in the Islamic Republic of Iran, which is still the subject of discussion with the pertinent authorities.

In Uganda, following an assessment mission, a project document has been developed focusing on the strengthening of the institutional and legal anti-corruption framework.

33. In the context of developing and implementing the above-mentioned projects and activities, the Centre worked in close cooperation with United Nations system entities, such as UNDP, UNOPS, and many international and national non-governmental organizations, such as Transparency International, Gallup International, Information International in Lebanon, the Norwegian Agency for International Development (NORAD) and Pro-Democracy in Romania.

34. In addition to the voluntary contributions provided by the Governments of France, Greece and United States of America, and UNDP, funding for a significant share of the programme's activities and staffing has been provided by the Governments of the Netherlands, Norway and the United States of America.

C. Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings

35. The Global Programme against Trafficking in Human Beings, launched in March 1999 jointly with UNICRI, consists of an integral package of research, technical cooperation and the formulation of an international strategy against trafficking in human beings. It aims at enabling countries of origin, transit and destination to develop joint strategies and successful criminal justice-related responses against trafficking in human beings. The Protocol against Trafficking in Persons, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, provides the normative framework and orientation for the global programme. The programme comprises a data collection and analysis component aimed at establishing a database on trafficking trends and flows as well as on best practices to combat against trafficking.

36. Four technical cooperation projects are currently under implementation or preparation. The anti-trafficking project signed with the Government of the Philippines in March 2000 has assisted the authorities with the establishment of a national inter-agency coordination mechanism, awareness raising, training sessions for law enforcement officers and a workshop on improving cooperation between police and prosecutors. An anti-trafficking project has been developed in cooperation with the Governments of the Czech Republic and Poland. Project activities will start upon the signature of the project by the Government of Poland. A similar project is under consideration for the Slovak Republic. The projects include assessing the requirements for ratification and implementation of the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons in the project countries, increasing successful investigation and prosecution of traffickers, and providing support and protection to victims and witnesses. In Brazil, a project has been developed which envisages a cost-sharing contribution by the Government of Brazil amounting to three fourths of the total budget, and which is awaiting the Government's signature. The project will assess routes and modalities used by organized crime groups to traffic in human beings. Its activities include improvement of the law enforcement response and support for victims of trafficking. A project is also being developed for the West African region (Benin, Nigeria and Togo), aimed at assessing trafficking flows and identifying countermeasures in support of the Governments' anti-trafficking efforts, targeting in particular the trafficking in women for sexual purposes and in children, who are believed to be sold by traffickers as slave labour. The global programme has also made contributions on the human trafficking component of an ODCCP project in the Dominican Republic. In close cooperation with the Government authorities of Nigeria and Italy, UNICRI has developed a project against trafficking in minors and young women from Nigeria to Italy.

37. A Forum on Global Action against Trafficking in Persons was organized in Catania, Italy, on 14 December 2000, in collaboration with UNICRI and the Government of Italy, as a side event of the High-level Political Signing Conference for the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime. The Forum identified action needed for the ratification and implementation of the Protocol against Trafficking in Persons and adopted a set of recommendations on measures to combat trafficking in human beings.

38. A public service announcement on trafficking in human beings was produced and is being distributed by ODCCP for broadcasting by interested television networks around the world. The announcement is intended to raise global awareness about trafficking in

human persons, dispel the myth about women easily finding work abroad in economically better-off countries and expose the sexual exploitation of which trafficked women become the subject. Broadcasting stations in several countries have expressed strong interest in the product.

39. Funding or pledges of assistance for the activities and projects developed under the programme have been received from the Governments of Austria, Belgium, Canada, France, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal and the United States of America. The Government of Australia has made an in-kind contribution towards the implementation of the Philippines project, and the Government of Brazil will co-finance the project in that country.

40. In the planning and implementation of the global programme, the Centre continued its cooperation with other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. In particular, it cooperated with the United Nations Children's Fund, the International Organization for Migration, the International Centre for Migration Policy Development, Interpol, the European Union and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

D. Global studies on transnational organized crime

41. The adoption of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime has opened new perspectives for activities aimed at assisting Member States in combating transnational organized crime, especially the provision of technical assistance through advisory services and field projects, supplemented by adequate data collection, analysis and policy development. Related activities, including the global studies on transnational organized crime which were initiated earlier, are now grouped together under the global programme against transnational organized crime. The Convention against Transnational Organized Crime provides the normative framework and orientation for the programme, which seeks to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of current policies and measures for combating organized crime; to provide assistance in upgrading the national capacities for collecting, analysing and using criminal justice data through the application of comprehensive methodologies; to promote public awareness on the existence, causes and gravity of the threats posed by transnational organized crime; to facilitate the exchange of information on patterns and trends in transnational organized crime and on successful practices for combating it; and to provide technical assistance through advisory services and field activities.

42. The programme also supports and supplements the activities of the Centre directly aimed at promoting the ratification of the Convention, such as the provision of pre-ratification assistance for countries which have signed the Convention. It is currently elaborating a project on the best practices in fighting organized crime worldwide, which will serve as a basis for providing technical assistance.

43. A project was launched in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to address economic and financial crime through strengthened legal provisions and the establishment of a specialized police unit. Additional funding is being sought for a project, formulated in cooperation with UNICRI, which aims at analysing and assessing the threat posed by Nigerian criminal networks active in four countries of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS): Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria and Senegal. Another project aimed at analysing and assessing transnational organized crime in five Central Asian States has been developed and approved. Commencement of the project activities, covering Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, awaits the signature of the project document by the Governments of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan. The global study on transnational organized crime continues to collect information in 12 countries (Australia, Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, the Russian Federation, South Africa, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) and in the Caribbean region. The data collected from this study are added to a database on transnational organized crime.

44. Funding or pledges of assistance for the activities and projects of the programme have been received from the Governments of France, Italy, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

E. Crime prevention and juvenile justice

45. The Centre supported and implemented a number of projects in other criminal justice areas, in accordance with its existing mandates. For example, in Lebanon, a project to strengthen the legislative and institutional capacity for juvenile justice is being implemented. A project proposal on juvenile justice has been prepared for Egypt and is expected to be implemented during 2001, while a follow-up juvenile justice project is being developed for Lebanon. Similarly, a project idea in the juvenile justice sector is being developed for the Islamic Republic of Iran, in consultation with the pertinent authorities. The Centre also assisted the South Africa Police Service to formulate and implement two pilot projects, with UNDP, to promote crime prevention in schools and the community, especially in rural areas.

46. In the context of the High-level Political Signing Conference on the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, held in Palermo, the Centre initiated preparatory work for the development of a new programme activity in crime prevention that will seek to promote a culture of lawfulness and assist national and local governments in protecting groups at risk of being recruited by organized crime, particularly through educational and civic programmes.

IX. Other programme activities

A. Promoting standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

47. The Centre for International Crime Prevention continued activities in pursuance of mandates relating to the promotion of the use and application of standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice. The following reports on the subject were submitted to the Commission: report of the Secretary-General on the use and application of the United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice (E/CN.15/2001/9); and report of the Secretary-General on capital punishment and implementation of the safeguards guaranteeing protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty (E/CN.15/2001/10 and Corr.1).

48. The practical application of existing United Nations standards and norms was particularly highlighted by the Commission, as an important means by which Governments could upgrade criminal justice administration, across sectors and improving professional performance in effectively combating crime, while safeguarding basic elements of human rights in an integrated manner. In view of their relevance, the Commission agreed to select "Reform of the criminal justice system" as the topic for the thematic discussion at its eleventh session.

B. Preventing terrorism

49. A division of labour has been established between the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention and the Office of Legal Affairs at United Nations Headquarters, according to which the Branch deals with research and technical cooperation while the Office of Legal Affairs deals with legal and normative matters.

50. During the past year, the Terrorism Prevention Branch made progress in its work on the development of data collection for the preparation of a global survey on terrorism. It has also cooperated closely with pertinent research institutions and other actors in the prevention of terrorism, serving as a clearing house of information though the launching of a web site (www.odccp.org). In addition, it is collaborating with the International Scientific and Professional Advisory Council (ISPAC) in publishing the proceedings of the conference on "Countering terrorism through enhanced international cooperation", held in Courmayeur, Italy, from 22 to 24 September 2000.

C. Collection and dissemination of information

51. The CICP continued its efforts to reinforce its capacity and performance in the collection, analysis and dissemination of relevant data and information. It has published electronically the responses to the Sixth United Nations Survey of Crime Trends and Operations of Criminal Justice Systems, presented by variable and by country (accessible at www.uncjin.org/Statistics/WCTS/WCTS6/Publication.pdf). The periodic surveys are the primary vehicle used by the Centre for the collection of statistics on crime trends and criminal justice at the national level. A total of 75 Governments have provided official data, covering the police, prosecution, courts, prisons and after-care services. The seventh survey has also

recently been launched, in cooperation with the United Nations Statistics Division in New York.

52. The CICP continued to expand its efforts to disseminate information, especially by electronic means, through the Internet-based United Nations Crime and Justice Information Network (UNCJIN). UNCJIN was merged into the site of the Office for Drug Control and Crime Prevention (www.odccp.org). The original UNCJIN data will continue to be assessable, without updates, at www.uncjin.org until the end of 2001.

53. During 2000, the UNCJIN site received 294,523 visitors, requesting 73.3 gigabytes of information. On average, a visitor to the site examined 5.59 documents, whereas during 1999 it had received 27,624 visitors, requesting 4.6 gigabytes of information, with an average of 3.63 documents examined by the visitors. That indicates that the interest in the site has grown more than 10-fold during the past year, so that it now provides 16 times the amount of information than it did the year before.

X. Resource mobilization

54. The contributions and pledges provided to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund during 2000 and until 31 May 2001 are listed in table 2 below.

55. Voluntary contributions over the past year to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund for technical cooperation projects were at the same level as in the previous year, while there was a decrease in general purpose contributions. The past year also witnessed a small but discernible expansion in the Centre's donor base, although it did not result in an overall increase in the total of voluntary contributions.

56. The bulk of the special-purpose contributions were for the three global programmes of the Centre and for supporting the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Elaboration of a Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, mainly to finance the cost of additional sessions that had not been included in the programme budget for the biennium 1999-2000, and to enable participants from the least developed countries to contribute to the work of the Ad Hoc Committee.

57. As can be seen from table 2, the donor base of the Centre continues to consist of a few countries. In 2001, the Centre will pursue efforts to broaden its donor base, promote more generous and sustained contributions and encourage increased general purpose contributions. Increased contributions, including general purpose contributions, are urgently needed to enable the Centre to plan and deliver technical assistance, to countries requesting it; launch new initiatives linked to the implementation of the global programmes and continue to play its proactive advocacy role at the global and regional/subregional levels, in cooperation with the Programme Networks of the Institutes.

58. The effective accomplishment of the significantly increased responsibilities of the Centre is contingent upon commensurate increases in the resources available to it. While the Centre will continue to actively pursue the mobilization of voluntary contributions to support its technical assistance and field projects, development agencies should also appreciate and take fully into account the fact that credible law enforcement, justice administration and anti-corruption efforts are essential to sustainable development. In the face of the threats posed by transnational crime, it is vital to supplement domestic arrangements with effective collaboration involving counterparts in other countries. The objective should be to ensure that criminal justice systems are both capable of, and committed to, responding speedily and adequately to the need for collaboration. In essence, criminal justice international cooperation should become a common possession of all nations.

XI. Concluding remarks

59. Over the years, the General Assembly has increasingly recognized the importance of making progress in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice and its contribution to the maintenance of security and the rule of law, with full respect of human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Assembly has also repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to strengthen the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, with a view to making it more responsive to needs and priority concerns of Member States. Drawing on the steps taken towards the implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/64, including other relevant mandates in this area, it can be concluded that the credibility of the Programme will be measured, to a large extent, by its ability to achieve tangible results, following the guidance provided by

Table 2
Contributions and pledges to the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Fund in 2000 and to 31 May 2001
(in United States dollars)

	2000			*2001*		
	General purpose	*Special purpose*	*Total*	*General purpose*	*Special purpose*	*Total*
Austria	129 054[a]	-	129 054	32 128[a]	-	32 128
Belgium	-	43 833[a]	43 833	-	-	-
Canada	27 027[a]	165 903[a]	192 930	-	-	-
Chile	10 000[a]	-	10 000	10 000[a]	-	10 000
Greece	30 000[a]	-	30 000	30 000[a]	-	30 000
Israel	-	10 500[a]	10 500	-	-	-
Italy	-	353 333[a]	353 333	-	-	-
Japan	-	500 000[a]	500 000	-	-	-
Netherlands	-	345 428[a]	345 428	-	319 000[a]	319 000
Norway	-	298 974[a]	298 974	-	-	-
Republic of Korea	25 000		25 000	-	-	-
Turkey	75 000	-	75 000	50 000[b]	-	50 000
United Kingdom	-	94 297[a]	94 297	-	-	-
United States of America	-	750 000[a]	750 000	-	-	-
Asia Crime Prevention Foundation	-	45 847[a]	45 847	-	-	-
European Commission		124 510[b]	124 510	-	-	-
International Police Association	6 003[a]	-	6 003	-	-	-
FTML[c]		53 675[a]	53 675	-	-	-
Other donations[d]	6 492	3 058	9 550	5 000[a]	-	5 000
Total	**308 576**	**2 789 358**	**3 097 934**	**127 128**	**319 000**	**446 128**

[a] Paid.
[b] Partially paid.
[c] France Telecom Mobile Lebanon.
[d] Pledges and contributions of less than US$ 5,000 from Governments and others.

Member States and the United Nations policy-making bodies. In this connection, the catalytic role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in providing policy directions to the Programme has greatly assisted the CICP not only in priority settings, but also in implementing its work programme and in rendering more effective and timely assistance to countries in need. Towards this end, the Centre has expanded its efforts of strengthening partnerships with United Nations entities and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and institutes, by fostering close collaborative ties and undertaking joint initiatives, particularly in respect of technical cooperation projects on issues of mutual interest.

60. Three basic requirements can be identified to sustain and build upon the progress of the past years, namely vigilant action by the intergovernmental bodies to reinforce the focus of the activities of the Programme's achievable and viable priority areas of engagement; continued efforts to provide resources to match the existing mandates of the programme by, inter alia, limiting the proliferation of new mandates and increasing budget allocations; and considerably

increased voluntary contributions for a further expansion of the operational activities. As noted above, one of the major developments during the last year has been the adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its three protocols. Pre-ratification assistance is essential to achieve the objective of helping countries to take concrete steps towards the ratification of the Convention and its protocols, especially the developing countries and countries with economies in transition, as recommended by the Assembly, and as specifically foreseen in the Convention. In this context, a special effort should be made to encourage States to make adequate and regular voluntary contributions for this purpose, in accordance with paragraph 15 of resolution 55/64 and paragraph 9 of resolution 55/25.

61. Efforts will be intensified to capitalize on what has been achieved to date and chart the task for the future with the aim of enhancing the Centre's capacity to deliver the refocused programme of work and improve its operational efficiency, while trying to strike a balance between this and other concerns of crime prevention and criminal justice. Towards this end, the recommendations contained in the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its thirty-eighth session on the in-depth evaluation of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme (E/AC.51/2001/5) will guide such efforts.

Notes

[1] See, in this connection, the report of the Secretary-General on activities of the institutes comprising the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network (E/CN.15/2001/8).

[2] See, also, "World prison populations: facts, trends and solutions" (E/CN.15/2001/CRP.1).

[3] *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. C.

[4] *International Review of Criminal Policy*, Nos. 43 and 44: United Nations Manual on the Prevention and Control of Computer-Related Crime (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.IV.5).

[5] *Tenth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Vienna, 10-17 April 2000: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.IV.8), paras. 161-174.